

N 309(c)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

CROSS-REFERENCE SLIP

Special Branch Registry. OFFICE

FILE NO. N. 309(C).

SUBJECT:

Dr. Mark SIEGELBERG.

German Jewish Refugee.

Author of a play in German, "The Masks are Dropped" ("Die Masken Fallen").

PARTICULARS	OFFICE	FILE NO.
INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER		

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Reference Slip from Headquarters.

To:	INSTRUCTIONS:
D.C. (Divs.)	For disposal
" (Crime)	Furnish data
" (S.B.)	Investigate and report
S.D.C.	Note and return
D.C. (F.2.)	Report present status
A.C. (F.2.)	Submit recommendation
D.C. (C.)	For further report
A.C. (C.)	For opinion
D.C. (Specials)	Reply to writer direct
" (A. & T. R.)	As instructed
" (Sikhs)	See me in re:
A.C. (Traffic)	Inform Applicant
D.O.A. Divn.	Draft Reply
" B. Divn.	For necessary action
" C. Divn.	Attach file
" D. Divn.	For information
Gov. of Gaol.	Comment
Personal Assistant	For verification
Quartermaster	Note and File <i>(all)</i>
Pay Office	Attach to File
Central Registry	
Legal Dept.	
C.C.R.	
P.L.S.	

*Mr. Kow informed by
S. Pitts, everything satisfactory*

THIS SLIP MUST NOT BE DETACHED.

RECEIVED
SPECIAL DIVISION
Date 92.1.60
Initials *BB*
SPECIAL DIVISION
Date 1/1
Initials *BB*
SPECIAL DIVISION
Date 1/1
Initials *BB*

Noted and Returned

"I. C."
SASSOON HOUSE
SHANGHAI.
CABLES: "ICYGRAM"
P. O. BOX 2140
TELEPHONE 16637
FK/Fe.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S.P. BR. REGISTRY
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS
IN CHINA

12 40
SHANGHAI. 22nd November 1940.

To the Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

Dear Sir:-

The receipt of your letter dated November 20, 1940, is acknowledged with thanks, and contents have been noted.

Nevertheless, I would like to point out again that the first Press notice regarding the performance of "DIE MASKEN FALLEN" in the hall of the British Embassy on November 9th and 10th appeared in the "Jewish Chronicle" on October 20th, 1940, already, but I was not approached nor informed that the Police were against the production.

In this connection, I have heard rumours that it is intended to produce the play in English in the Lyceum Theatre. I do not know, at present, if these rumours are based on truth. I would appreciate if you would inform me whether you know of this matter and what attitude you will take towards the production in English and presumably played by English actors.

Regarding a close co-operation, I am recalling a telephone conversation with Mr. Young sometime ago, during which it was tentatively agreed that we would consult one another before further licences for German language papers were granted. Nevertheless, a licence to the "MITARBEITER" was granted without such consultation, and we only heard by chance of the establishment of a further paper the first issue of which is, to our knowledge, to appear today.

Whilst no objection is raised by this Committee to the "MITARBEITER", it must nevertheless be realized by you that co-operation on our part is made somewhat difficult in the circumstances.

INDEXED BY
(S.P.) REGISTRY
DATE 1/12/40

D. C. (Cr & Sp. Branch)

He is always offering to
some residents of long standing
you had better appear to
Soviet.

Yours faithfully,

"I. C." ORGANIZATION
FOR
IMMIGRANTS

22 NOV. 1940
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Reference Slip from Headquarters.

To:	INSTRUCTIONS:
D.C. (Divs.) " (Crime) " (S.B.)	For disposal ✓ Furnish data Investigate and report Note and return Report present status Submit recommendation For further report For opinion Reply to writer direct As instructed See me in re: Inform Applicant Draft Reply For necessary action Attach file For information Comment For verification Note and File Attach to File
S.D.C. D.C. (F.2.) A.C. (F.2.) D.C. (C.) A.C. (C.) D.C. (Specials) " (A. & T. R.) " (Sikhs) A.C. (Traffic) D.O.A. Divn. " B. Divn. " C. Divn. " D. Divn. Gov. of Gaol. Personal Assistant Quartermaster Pay Office Central Registry Legal Dept. C.C.R. P.L.S.	

THIS SLIP MUST NOT BE DETACHED.

File to Bureau

Initials *Ho. 11.40* Date *10.1.40*

For File Assistant Special Unit Date

Noted and Returned Date / /

November 20,

40.

Paul Komor, Esqre:
Hon. Secretary,
International Committee for the
Organization of European Immigrants
in China,
S E A N G H A I.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your
PK/Fa, dated November 19, 1940, and do not
question the facts you put forward. It is
true Police had knowledge of the existence
of the play in question for a long time, and
did, in fact, prevent its production in public
places. The Police ~~had~~ not knowledge, until
a few days before the day set, of the recent
showing which was arranged by the Producer
without reference to this Department.

The call on you by a Police Officer to
which you refer, was ~~on~~ my instructions, simply
to request your good offices in connection with
such propaganda activity in future. There was
~~no intention~~ whatever, to indicate any lack of
cooperation on your part, but I shall be very
grateful if you will keep close touch with the
Police Department in such matters in future, as
I am convinced it is in the public interest to

stop such political activity by refugees.

Yours faithfully,

phB

Commissioner of Police.

rw/.

"I. C."
SASCOON HOUSE
SHANGHAI.
CABLES: "ICYGRAM"
P. O. BOX 2140
TELEPHONE 16637

PK/FB.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS
IN CHINA

SHANGHAI. 19th November 1940.

To the Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

In connection with the recent production of the play "DIE MASKEN FALLEN" I had the pleasure yesterday of a call from Sub-Inspector Wittinsky who suggested that in matters of Public Interest wherein the Emigrants in our midst might possibly be concerned or their special interests may be affected, there should be more co-operation between the S.M.P. and this organization.

May I observe that I am not aware that such co-operation has been lacking on the part of this Committee which has, indeed, given all the assistance that it could reasonably give in the past and certainly intends to do so also in the future.

With reference to this special case, may I be permitted to observe that evidently the Police were acquainted with the play and the intention to produce it quite sometime ago.

Furthermore, the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle" brought press-notices beginning with its issue of 20th October almost daily, the "North China Daily News" also printed an article in this connection on the 31st October.

As far as this Committee is aware, not until then was any objection raised to the production of the play. There was, therefore, no previous occasion whatsoever for this organization to take any steps in the direction of persuading the producers to abstain from their project.

The producers had, themselves, gone so far with their project at the time when Mr. Speelman's letter appeared in the "North China Daily News" that, evidently, they could not cancel the performances without taking a considerable loss.

I myself attached no special significance to the production of the play although, in private conversation, I voiced doubts as to the advisability or desirability of producing it here and at this time, even going so far as to say, that I thought the production illtimed, but I cannot claim that my own opinion must be conclusive and correct nor have I any means or wish to impose such opinion on any one. I must add that the play was not submitted to me for reading and I have no knowledge of its contents beyond that which has appeared in the Press subsequent to its initial production.

"I.C." to the Commissioner of Police, S.M.L., Shanghai.

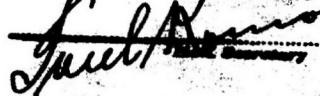
The fact is, that not until Friday last was I approached with the request that I use the influence of my organization to have further performances, which were advertised to take place on the 16th and 17th inst., cancelled and the "I.C." did what it could, in the very short space of time at its disposal, in this direction.

Had the "I.C." been approached by the S.M.L. in the first place with the request that it use its good offices, it might have been possible to persuade the producers in a friendly way to comply with the, no doubt well grounded, wishes of the Police.

I can give you the assurance that this Committee is always ready to co-operate, as far as it is in its power to do so, with the authorities but, reasonably, it must be given a fair chance to do so or, otherwise, a situation might arise which it is impossible to remedy and which might possibly do harm, more especially to the Emigrants themselves.

Yours faithfully,

"I.C." ORGANIZATION
FOR
EMIGRANTS



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.S.6, Special Branch. ~~SECRET~~
REPORT

Date November 19, 1940.

Subject (in full)

German Refugee Play - "Die Masken Fallen".

Made by D.S.I. Wittinsky.

Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

In compliance with verbal instructions received from Mr. Bennett, A.C.i/c Special Branch, Mr. P. Komor was visited by the undersigned and made cognizant with the gist of the attached file. He promised his whole-hearted co-operation in endeavouring to curb political agitation in future.

Mr. M. Siegelberg, the producer of the play "Die Masken Fallen", was summoned to this office, on the 18-11-40, and was strongly warned against future political activities of this nature.

1st player as
16 and 17th as
advertised in
press.

Commr. of Police.

Sir:

Information.

19/11/40

Bennett
A.C. (S.B.)

A.C. (Special Branch).

O. Wittinsky
D. S. I.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Date November 15, 1940.

(Headquarters) Office Notes

D.C. (Crime) & (Special Branch).

CONFIDENTIALGERMAN REFUGEE PLAY - "DIE MASKEN FALLEN".

With reference to the above, as was anticipated, the German Consul General has taken exception to the shewing of this play, and a personal letter in these terms has been received by the Secretary & Commissioner General.

I informed the Council that I have written to the British Consul General on the subject a week ago, and the shewing of the play had been altered from public exhibition by the purchase of tickets to a private shewing with free tickets, thereby altering the situation somewhat.

The Secretary & Commissioner General interviewed the British Consul General this morning, and later held conversations with the German Consul General. The latter has now agreed to consider the matter closed, but requests that the Municipal Police will

- A. Take a very strong line with the producers of this play, and warn them that political agitation of this nature will not be tolerated in future; and
- B. Inform Mr. Komor of the whole business, and enlist his assistance in keeping down political agitation in future.

I have informed the Secretary General that I am prepared to do this. Please, therefore, act accordingly, and record action taken in a short report for completion of this file.


Commissioner of Police.

I.W./.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

November 15, 1940.

D.C. (Crime) & (Special Branch).

CONFIDENTIAL

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- A. Take a very strong line with the producers of this play, and warn them that political agitation of this nature will not be tolerated in future; and
- B. Inform Mr. Kemper of the whole business, and enlist his assistance in keeping down political agitation in future.

I have informed the Secretary General that I am prepared to do this. Please, therefore, act accordingly, and record action taken in a short report for completion of this file.

W. K. M. Rennie

Commissioner of Police

100/1

Emigre Showing Of Jewish Play Cancelled Here

German Pressure Said Brought To Bear On Local Committee

Fear that Jews in Germany would suffer further persecutions caused sponsors of "The Masked Ball," a locally-written play in German by Jewish emigres, to cancel further performances, it was learned to-day.

The play was not performed on Saturday and Sunday evenings as had been scheduled, although two performances were held during the previous week at the British Press Attaché's Hall on The Bund. Two additional showings for the coming Saturday and Sunday have also been cancelled.

"Illness" Said Reason

The Jewish emigre committee declared that the reason for the failure of the show to take place on Saturday and last night was due to "the illness of one of the principal actors."

It is learned, however, that a member of the German Consulate in Shanghai telephoned to Mr. Paul Komor of the Jewish emigre committee and "requested" that further performances of the play should be cancelled.

Reprisals Against Jews

The German official, it is understood, also indicated that unless the play would be stopped reprisals would be taken against Jews living in Germany and also against Jewish emigres here.

Questioned this morning about the telephone conversation with the German official, Mr. Komor declared to the Shanghai Evening Post that he did not wish to deny or confirm it, adding that he was not the press spokesman for the Jewish emigre committee, and that it would be necessary to speak to Mr. Ellis Hayim.

Mr. Ellis Hayim, Chairman of the Jewish emigre committee, when questioned by the Standard Journal of the East, would not say that the German official had spoken to him, but he did say that he had been in touch with the German Consulate.

The "Masked Ball" opened to favorable reviews and popular audiences the evening of its first performance in April following the Nazi coup. A cancellation has been made for the two last performances by Justice Komor, and the play has been suspended here in the mean-

time. The two last performances were to be the play's "last" performances, as the author, a man of Jewish origin, had given up his play for the emigre cause.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S.P. BR. REGISTRY
309(c)

18 11/40

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

NOV 6 1940

**"Die Masken Fallen":
A Delicate Suggestion**

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir.—I would like to suggest that
Messrs. OSCAR LEWIN, MARK SIEGELSON,
HANS WISSEN and your correspondent
DURCO take over the arduous and
thankless task of the Committee for
the Assistance of Jewish Refugees.
Their great talents would no doubt
be better able to grapple with the
many problems the Committee has
to face, including whether this is
the time for masks to fall, or not
to fall, than those who for many
months past have given of their time
and of their means so generously to
a difficult, and very complicated
situation.

DURCO

Shanghai, Nov. 5.

650

Jewish Play Showing Set For Weekend

Two further performances of "Die Masken Fallen" (The Masks Fall) by Mark Siegelberg and Hans Wiener will be given at 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, in the auditorium of the British Press Attaché's Office at No. 28 The Bund.

Brilliantly written, the play deals with Nazi persecution of Jews in Austria at the time of its annexation, a subject with which actual experience have made the authors only too familiar.

Every member of the cast of 20 is a Jewish emigre, among them being several players with many years of stage experience in Vienna. The cast is headed by Miss Lily Poir, well-known night-club entertainer.

The initial performances of "Die Masken Fallen" sold out and were so successful that the demand to give two further performances. It is hoped that this Christmas Day, a portion of the proceeds will be given to the United Jewish Appeal Fund.

There will be no charge admission to "Die Masken Fallen." Tickets can only be obtained by applying to the "Shakespeare Chronicle" 26-17, Osnabrück.

Jewish Play Is Outstanding Hit

Money Repaid As SMP Appear On Scene; JRC Objects

Despite several attempts by the Jewish Refugee Committee here to prevent its showing, "The Masks Fall," an original five-act play by Mark Siegelberg and Hans Wiener on the persecution of Jews by the Nazis, was presented to a capacity audience in the British Press Attache's Hall on Saturday evening.

Threats that the actors in the play would not be given further support by the committee if they would perform, are understood to have been made, while a final effort on Saturday evening to prevent the show from taking place by obtaining police refusal to allow any paying admission because of the nature of the play was foiled when the sponsors of the show refunded the money to all those with tickets and allowed them to retain their seats.

Outstanding Success

The play was an outstanding success and by noteworthy and restrained portrayals on the part of the cast, remained fine entertainment, although obviously intended to be propaganda.

Skillful portrayals were given in the leading roles by Karl Bodan, Lily Flöhr, Helga Berliner (talented young lady, only 10 years old), Fritz Meichior, Herbert Zennik, Kurt Lewin, Ursula Perlhofer and Josef Meister, while those in the smaller parts, included Frieda Weiszter, Helene Gantner and Margot Wallach.

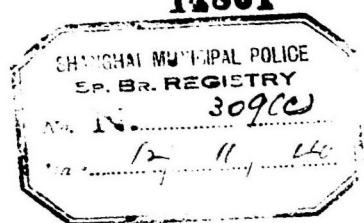
The story is laid in Austria, a few days before the anchluss. It develops a strong theme in which an Aryan woman, married to a Jewish newspaperman for 10 years, seeks a divorce from her husband because she has fallen in love with another man. Before she can get her divorce, however, her husband and his old father are taken away to a concentration camp following the arrival of the Nazis.

Pergola Blüwesse

The tragic plight of her husband brings a change to the woman who decides to forget about the divorce and, instead, applies every measure she can to obtain the release of her husband and father.

This she finally succeeds in doing and obtains two tickets for him to go to Shanghai. At the station the old father, hurriedly summoned by the order in the concentration camp, realises that the two tickets will be used with the two

other. He sacrifices his freedom by throwing himself before an on-coming train and is killed leaving the couple free to leave for Shanghai.



CHINA PRESS.

12 11 44

Performed By Jews
**Anti-German
 Play To Be
 Given Tonight**

Sponsored by the Shanghai Jewish Chronicle, German emigre publication here, "Die Minnen Fallen" (The Masks Fall), a play in the German language, will be staged today and tomorrow in the British Press Attaché's Hall, 33 The Bund. The occasion coincides with the anniversary of the anti-Jewish excesses in Germany in November 1938.

Written in Shanghai by Mark Siegelberg, the play deals with the problem confronting Jews married to Aryans. A Jewish journalist is about to be divorced by his Aryan wife shortly after the German annexation of Austria. The play depicts the life and struggles of the couple.

Leading role is played by Karl Budde, who also directs. The feminine leads are taken by Madames Lilly Flohr and Ursula Pfeiffer. Barbara Zernik, Weiss Minkow and others were ill cast by the critics.

Wyatt

D.P.S. Kelly Tech

R

215 noted you 9/11

*FILE
 1997*

CONFIDENTIAL

November 6,

40

H.B.M. Consul General,
H.B.M. Consulate,
SHANGHAI

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to a German play called "The Masks are Dropped" and the attached reports dated August 20 and November 5, 1940.

It is the opinion of the Special Branch with whom I agree that the staging of this play in British official premises is quite a different matter to the staging of British films and so on and may result in political reprisals which it is so much desired to avoid in this International city.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.



FILE
K-11

August 20, 1940

Attached Communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

With reference to the attached communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg, dated 12-8-40, wherein Police permission to stage a German play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" is sought, the following particulars have been obtained:

Dr. Mark Siegelberg, born in Lutz, Russia, on the 11-6-1895, emigrated in his early youth to Vienna, Austria, where he became the editor of several political newspapers. When Austria was annexed by the third Reich, Dr. Siegelberg was arrested and subsequently sent to several concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

Following his release from the concentration camp he left for Shanghai, arriving here, accompanied by his wife, on the 27-6-39 on board the s.s. "Conte Biancamano". Dr. Siegelberg arrived here with a German "J" passport, but failed to prolong this passport and several months ago took out Russian Emigrants' papers.

Following his arrival here, Dr. Siegelberg, wrote a book entitled "Jewish Prisoner No. 13877", in the German language, which was printed by the American Press", 542 Avenue Joffre. In the said book, Dr. Siegelberg describes his experiences in the various concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

On the 15-8-40, Dr. Siegelberg registered a weekly German language newspaper "Das Echo" (Reg.No.F.94) but did not commence publication, as he, at that time, received an offer from the "Jewish Chronicle", Hamilton House, to become it's editor. Dr. Siegelberg holds the latter position at present, and is residing at 41/3 Muirhead Road.

Several weeks ago Dr. Siegelberg approached D.S.I. Wittinsky enquiring as to the advisability of staging his play "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" in

Shanghai. He was informed by the latter that before staging the play, he would have to get Police permission through the official channels. However, before submitting the manuscript to the Police, Dr. Siegelberg sent a copy of the same to Captain Inatsuki of the Japanese Naval Landing Party, who stated that there are no objections from his point of view, and forwarded a letter of consent to Dr. Siegelberg.

The subject of the above play is definitely political and deals partly with the "Racial Theory". Scenes in a concentration camp (Act 4) dealing with atrocities and tortures of Jews are vividly described. The play which cannot be classified as cultural or recreational is likely to cause incidents and breach of peace, if staged publicly and without Police protection. Attached to this report are several exerts of the play and their translations.

Enquiries reveal that Dr. Siegelberg's reason for staging "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" in Shanghai is, of an entirely commercial nature, namely, to assist the sale of the said play in the U.S.A. To push the sale of his manuscript Dr. Siegelberg requires enthusiastic press reviews, which he is able to obtain, being the chief editor of the "Jewish Chronicle".

Dr. Siegelberg proposes to stage this play in the Kinchow Road Camp, 100 Kinchow Road; the date to be fixed subject to the issue of a permit by the Police. The performance is proposed to take place on three consecutive evenings, and an attendance of 300 persons is expected on each occasion. Dr. Siegelberg wishes to stress the fact that the audience will be composed exclusively of German Jewish Refugees, and believes that consequently there will not be any disturbances.

There is nothing to the detriment of Dr. Mark Siegelberg in S.M.P. records.

November 5, 1940

"The Masks are Dropped" (Die Masken Fallen) - Play
by Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

With reference to the query of the P.A. to D.C. (Crime & Special Branches) on the attached cutting from the North China Daily News, dated 4-11-40, I beg to state that on the 12-8-40, Dr. Mark Siegelberg submitted to the Special Branch for examination and approval the manuscript of his play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach", with the ultimate intention of staging it in the Kinchow Road Refugee Camp. Owing, however, to the "international character of the Settlement" permission to stage the play was not granted. Full particulars regarding Dr. Siegelberg and his play are contained in the attached report submitted by this Section on August 20th, 1940.

Having met with Police refusal, Dr. Siegelberg approached Mr. J.A. Alexander, British Press Attaché, who put the stage located in the British Press Attaché's Offices, 28 The Bund, at Dr. Siegelberg's disposal. According to Dr. Siegelberg, Mr. J.A. Alexander has read the play and told the author that if he changes the title and eliminates harsh expressions, he (Mr. Alexander) would take all responsibility for the presentation.

"The Masks are Dropped" (new title for "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach") is scheduled to be publicly staged between 8 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. on the 9th and 10th instant at the Offices of the British Press Attaché, 28 The Bund. Tickets for the presentation of the play are being sold at the Editorial Offices of the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle", 17 Canton Road. Prior to the issue of a ticket, persons are requested to state their names and addresses, similar to the procedure adopted by the Attaché's Office, when issuing admission tickets to British War Films. The accommodating capacity of

the room at 28 The Bund is 150 seats and the prices of tickets are ranging from \$2.- to \$8.- The profits derived from the staging of "The Masks are Dropped" will be divided among the author and the participating actors.

Mr. M. Speelman, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance to Shanghai Jewish Refugees, feels that at a time like the present, Jewish Refugees should disassociate themselves from political work of any description and consequently published a letter on the 3-11-40 to that effect in the North China Daily News. Both Mr. Speelman's letter and the "Author's Reply" are attached herewith.

Shanghai, August 12, 1940

To the
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

Sir,

We beg leave to apply for the permission to stage our play, "Die Ehe des Doktor Brach" (The Matrimony of Dr. Brach) in the Kinchow Road Refugee Jewish Centre (Kinchow Buehne). The play is in the German language.

The above-mentioned play treats a problem, that for years has occupied the minds of the Jews in Europe: "Racial Theory". Following are the contents of the play:

Shortly before the German occupation of Austria, Dr. Brach, a Jewish journalist, is about to be divorced by his wife Christine, an "Aryan". The reason for the divorce is, that Christine has fallen in love with another man. When the Germans take over, Dr. Brach is arrested and taken to a Concentration Camp. This even makes his wife change her mind. She resolves to give up the divorce and to hold out until her husband will be freed. She fights untiringly for the release and finally succeeds. In this fight lasting many months, the couple again gets convinced, that they belong to one another, so they emigrate together to Shanghai.

The play sets out to prove, that love between two people, even if they seemingly belong to different races, is stronger than any "Racial Theory". The play does not decide itself for either race and centres on the fight of the "Aryan" woman for her Jewish husband.

On account of the problem, of universal interest, discussed in it, the play has already been accepted by the "Oesterreichische Buehne" in New York, the foremost theatre of German refugees. At the same time the play is translated into English.

The two play-wrights (one of them for more than twenty years editor-in-chief of one of the biggest dailies

in Austria) desire that the play, of such interest for Jews, is staged here in a Refugee theatre. We intend to show the play only before an exclusively Jewish Refugee audience and not before the general public. Therefore the "Kinchow-Buehne", the theatre in the Jewish Refugee Centre, Kinchow Road, has been chosen.

The play being staged in Hongkew, has already been examined by the Japanese authorities. They have no objections at all and have forwarded to us their written consent.

Therefore we hope and expect that the Shanghai Municipal Police will give us the necessary permission.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) Mark Siegelberg

(Dr. Mark Siegelberg. (Nom de plume:
Willi Kram) and Hans Wiener)

C/o Dr. Mark Siegelberg

P.O.B. 1914.

CONFIDENTIAL

Handwritten

P

Dear Sirs and Madams

Pray accept my thanks

for your kind offer of a sample
work when I am writing a play in
British 16 mm - story of the play in
British film. The idea is not - difficult
matter to - story of British film and
so on as many ^{result in political} ~~one~~ repressions which is in
so much deserved to come in the British

AS:

7 L L L 6

Yours

OP

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.S.6, Special Branch. ~~Station~~
REPORT

Date November 5, 1940.

Subject: "THE MASKS ARE DROPPED" (Die Masken Fallen) - Play by Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

Made by: D.P.S. Danemanis. Forwarded by: Supt. Mason.

With reference to the query of the P.A. to D.C. (Crime & Special Branches) on the attached cutting from the North China Daily News, dated 4-11-1940, I beg to state that on the 12-8-40, Dr. Mark Siegelberg submitted to the Special Branch for examination and approval the manuscript of his play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach", with the ultimate intention of staging it in the Kinchow Road Refugee Camp. Owing, however, to the "international character of the Settlement" permission to stage the play was not granted. Full particulars regarding Dr. Siegelberg and his play are contained in the attached report submitted by this Section on August 20th, 1940.

Comments
a very risky business which I would stop if I could.

Having met with Police refusal, Dr. Siegelberg approached Mr. J. A. Alexander, British Press Attaché, who put the stage located in the British Press Attaché Offices, 28 The Bund, at Dr. Siegelberg's disposal. According to Dr. Siegelberg, Mr. J. A. Alexander has read the play and told the author that if he changes the title and eliminates harsh expressions, he (Mr. Alexander) would take all responsibility for the presentation.

"The Masks Are Dropped" (new title for "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach") is scheduled to be publicly staged between 8 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. on the 9th and 10th instant at the Offices of the British Press Attaché, 28 The Bund. Tickets for the presentation of the play are being sold at the Editorial Offices of the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle", 17 Canton Road. Prior to the issue



I agree w/ you
to Mr. Alexander use
his name



File No.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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..... Station,
Date. 19

Subject.

Made by. Forwarded by.

of a ticket, persons are requested to state their names and addresses, similar to the procedure adopted by the Attache's Office, when issuing admission tickets to British War Films. The accommodating capacity of the room at 28 The Band is 150 seats and the prices of tickets are ranging from \$2.- to \$8.- The profits derived from the staging of "The Masks are Dropped" will be divided among the author and the participating actors.

Mr. M. Speelman, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance to Shanghai Jewish Refugees, feels that at a time like the present, Jewish Refugees should disassociate themselves from political work of any description and consequently published a letter on the 3-11-40 to that effect in the North China Daily News. Both Mr. Speelman's letter and the "Ather's Reply" are attached herewith.


D. P. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

10765
NOV 5 1940

"Die Maeken Fallen": An Amazing Protest

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir.—Referring to the letter of the Jewish Relief Committee published in today's edition, I should like to state that that publication seems to me one of the most amazing political actions which I have ever experienced in Shanghai. So far as I know from the newspapers the play "Die Maeken fallen" is an anti-Nazi work directed against the racial ideology of the Nazis. To call such a work a provocation which should be avoided, seems so much more amazing as, according to all information, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Jewish Committee are Dutch and British citizens. Nevertheless, they are not averse to struggle against the performance of a play directed against the same people who have destroyed Rotterdam and are bombing London every day. Those who know that something must be done to expose the Nazis are, indeed, most difficult to comprehend. "Die Maeken" is not a serious provocation.

Yours very truly,
W. H. G. H. Nov. 5

NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS,

Nov. 1, 1941

**"Die Masken Fallen":
Refugee Committee Pained**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir.—My committee has noted with pained surprise that the "Shanghai Jewish Chronicle" is sponsoring a play entitled "Die Masken fallen", and wishes to dissociate itself entirely from this project.

My Committee feels very strongly that at a time like the present, anything provocative of discussion should be avoided in this city.

M. SIEGMAN
Chairman, Committee
for Assistance Shanghai
Jewish Refugees.

Shanghai, Nov. 1.

CHINA DAILY NEWS

"Die Masken fallen":

Authors' Reply

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

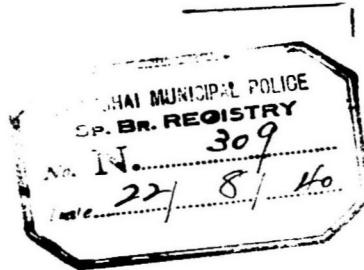
Sir.—With reference to the letter of M. SPERLMAN, Chairman of the Committee for Assistance of Shanghai Jewish Refugees, published in yesterday's issue of the N.C.D.N. we like to declare that so far as we are informed none of the Committee's members has ever read our play "Die Masken fallen". We are astonished, indeed, that an organization responsible for weal and woe of so many thousands of people is attacking a play which its leaders cannot know, and the only purpose of which is to do service to the understanding between men and races.

MARK SIEGELSON
HANS WERNER

Shanghai, Nov. 3.

D. P. S. Sauermaier.

H. 4/11.



August

21.

40.

Dr. Mark Siegelberg,
41/3 Muirhead Road,
Shanghai.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 12, 1940, in which you made application for permission to stage a play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brack" in the Kinchow Road Centre. The script has been examined and I have to inform you that owing to the international character of the Settlement, permission to stage this play is refused.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Starkes

Commissioner of Police.

Enclosure Retained.

22/8/40

Th

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SP. B.R. REGISTRY

N. 309

C. S. 6, Special Branch. S. 21, No.

REPORT

Date: August 20, 1940.

Subject: Attached Communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

Made by: D.P.S. Danemanis. Forwarded by: Supt. Mason.

With reference to the attached communication from Dr. Mark Siegelberg, dated 12-8-40, wherein Police permission to stage a German play entitled "The Matrimony of Dr. Brach" is sought, the following particulars have been obtained:

Dr. Mark Siegelberg, born in Luzk, Russia, on the 11-6-1895, emigrated in his early youth to Vienna, Austria, where he became the editor of several political newspapers. When Austria was annexed by the third Reich, Dr. Siegelberg was arrested and subsequently sent to several concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

Following his release from the concentration camp he left for Shanghai, arriving here, accompanied by his wife, on the 27-6-39 on board the s.s. "Conte Biancamano". Dr. Siegelberg arrived here with a German "J" passport, but failed to prolong this passport and several months ago took out Russian Emigrants' papers.

Following his arrival here, Dr. Siegelberg, wrote a book entitled "Jewish Prisoner No. 13877", in the German language, which was printed by the American Press", 542 Avenue Joffre. In the said book, Dr. Siegelberg describes his experiences in the various concentration camps in Austria and Germany.

On the 15-8-40, Dr. Siegelberg registered a weekly German language newspaper "Das Echo" (Reg. No. F. 94) but did not commence publication, as he, at that time, received an offer from the "Jewish Chronicle", Hamilton House, to become it's editor. Dr. Siegelberg holds the latter position at present, and is residing at 41/3

Commr. of Police.
Supt.
Information.

R. D. Joffre.

D. C. (Sp. Br.)

Reply as
proposed herewith

R. D. J.
3/1
F.

INDEXED BY
(S.B.) REGISTRY

DATE 21/8/40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

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.....Date.....19

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Muirhead Road.

Several weeks ago Dr.Siegelberg approached D.S.I. Wittinsky enquiring as to the advisability of staging his play "The Matrimony of Dr.Brach" in Shanghai. He was informed by the latter that before staging the play, he would have to get Police permission through the official channels. However, before submitting the manuscript to the Police, Dr.Siegelberg sent a copy of the same to Captain Inatsuki of the Japanese Naval Landing Party, who stated that there are no objections from his point of view, and forwarded a letter of consent to Dr.Siegelberg.

The subject of the above play is definitely political and deals partly with the "Racial Theory". Scenes in a concentration camp (Act 4) dealing with atrocities and tortures of Jews are vividly described. The play which cannot be classified as cultural or recreational is likely to cause incidents and breach of peace, if staged publicly and without Police protection. Attached to this report are several exerts of the play and their translations.

Enquiries reveal that Dr.Siegelberg's reason for staging "The Matrimony of Dr.Brach" in Shanghai is, of an entirely commercial nature, namely, to assist the sale of the said play in the U.S.A. To push the sale of his manuscript Dr.Siegelberg requires enthusiastic press reviews, which he is able to obtain, being the chief editor of the "Jewish Chronicle".

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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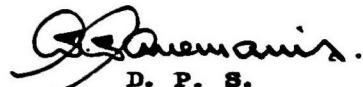
.....Station,
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Dr. Siegelberg proposes to stage this play in the Kinchow Road Camp, 100 Kinchow Road; the date to be fixed subject to the issue of a permit by the Police. The performance is proposed to take place on three consecutive evenings, and an attendance of 300 persons is expected on each occasion. Dr. Siegelberg wishes to stress the fact that the audience will be composed exclusively of German Jewish Refugees, and believes that consequently there will not be any disturbances.

There is nothing to the detriment of Dr. Mark Siegelberg in S.M.P. records.


D. P. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

Exerts from:

"THE MATRIMONY OF DR. BRACH".

5 Act Play

by

Dr. Mark Siegelberg.

1st Act.

Page 5.

Original:

Forstner: Mit einem Juden werden wir doch nicht viel Geschichten machen.

Huber: Wie meinst du das. Ich verstehe jetzt nicht recht.

F: Du sagtest doch, dass der Mann die Frau noch immer liebt und dass sein Einverständnis schwer zu haben sein wird. Aber wenn der Mann Jude ist, so brauchen wir doch nicht sein Einverständnis.

H: Moeglicherweise ist das so in Deutschland. In Oesterreich sind alle Menschen vor dem Gesetze gleich.

F: Grenzen sind von Menschen gemacht und koennen daher von Menschen korrigiert werden. Was heute Oesterreich ist, kann morgen, oder sagen wir uebermorgen, ja, aber uebermorgen kann es schon Deutschland sein.

1st Act.

Page 5.

Translation:

Forstner: But with a Jew one doesn't have to bother much.

Huber: How do you mean. I don't understand.

F: You said that the husband still loves his wife and that his consent to divorce her will be difficult to obtain. But as he is a Jew, his consent is of course not required.

H. Perhaps it is that way in Germany, but in Austria all people are equal in the eyes of the law.

F: Borders were made by humans and can also be corrected by humans. That which is Austria to-day, can be

1st Act:
Page 5. (Continued).

F:(Con'd) morrow or after to-morrow, yes, after to-morrow,
 become Germany.

2nd Act:
Page 1.

Original:

(Zimmer bei Dr.Brach, Tisch, Stuehle, Telefon. Die Wohnung
ist gut buergerlich eingerichtet.
Von der Strasse her Trommelwirbel und Gesang: "Die Strasse
frei den breunen Bataillonen...."

2nd Act:
Page 1.

Translation:

Dr. Brach's room. Table, chairs, telephone. Well furnished
apartment.

From the street drums and singing; "Die Strasse frei (Nazi
battle hymn.)

2nd Act:
Page 4.

Original:

Der zweite Herr: Und Sie selber, Sie sind keine Juedin?

Elsa: Nein, ich bin Christin.

Der zweite Herr: Ach Quatsch, Arierin sind Sie. Ich ~~an~~
Ihrer Stelle wuerde diesen Posten aufgeben. Es
Widerspricht dem arischen Ehrgefühl, bei einem
Jeden in dienender Stellung ~~zu~~ sein.

2nd Act:
Page 4.

Translation:

The 2nd Gentleman: And you yourself are not a Jewess?

Elsa: No, I'm a Christian.

2nd Gentleman: Trips, you are an Aryan. If I were you
I would resign my position here. It is against the

2nd Act:
Page 4: (Continued).

2nd Gentleman(Con'd).

Aryan sense of propriety to be in service of a Jew.

4th Act:

Page 1.

Original:

(Im Jourhaus des Konzentrationslagers. Die Buehne ist zweigeteilt. Links Korridor, rechts Amtsstube. Da der Vorhang aufgeht, marschieren von links drei Maenner in Straeflingskleidern an. Vor der Tuere der Amtsstube stehen drei andere Staeflinge.)

Eine Stimme hinter der Szene: Halt! Rechts um.

(Die drei Maenner bleiben stehen und machen rechts um)

Die Sauguden bei der Tuere. Hergestellt! Links um! Marschieren marsch! Saubande verfluchte, Maul halten, sonst lass ich euch an den Baum haengen!

4th Act:
Page 1.

Translation:

dealing entirely with cruelties and mishandling of Jews in a concentration camp.

Above: A voice in the background. "Halt. Right face".

Three prisoners halt and turn right.

"The Jewish pigs by the door, Attention, left turn, quick march,. You damned herd of swine, hold your traps, or I'll hang you on a tree, etc, etc.

Felbow on page 2- Discussion about a killed person, whose head has been bashed in by Nazi guards.

Dr. Mark Siegelberg
M.O.B. 1914

Shanghai, August 12, 1940

To the
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

Sir,

We beg leave to apply for the permission to stage our play, "Die Ehe des Doktor Brach" (The matrimony of Dr. Brach) in the Kinchow Road Refugee Jewish Centre (Kinchow Buchne). The play is in the German language.

The above-mentioned play treats a problem, that for years has occupied the minds of the Jews in Europe: "Racial Theory". Following are the contents of the play:

Shortly before the German occupation of Austria, Dr. Brach, a Jewish journalist, is about to be divorced by his wife Christine, an "Aryan". The reason for the divorce is, that Christine has fallen in love with another man. When the Germans take over, Dr. Brach is arrested and taken to a Concentration Camp. This event makes his wife change her mind. She resolves to give up the divorce and to hold out until her husband will be freed. She fights untiringly for the release and finally succeeds. In this fight lasting many months, the couple again gets convinced, that they belong to one another, so they emigrate together to Shanghai.

The play sets out to prove, that love between two people, even if they seemingly belong to different races, is stronger than any "Racial Theory". The play does not decide itself for either race and centres on the fight of the "Aryan" woman for her Jewish husband.

On account of the problem, of universal interest, discussed in it, the play has already been accepted by the "Oesterreichische Buehne" in New York, the foremost theatre of German refugees. At the same time the play is translated into English.

The two play-wrights (one of them for more than twenty years editor-in-chief of one of the biggest dailies in Austria) desire that the play, of such interest for Jews, is staged here in a Refugee theatre. We intend to show the play only before an exclusively Jewish Refugee audience and not before the general public. Therefore the "Kinchow-Buehne", the theatre in the Jewish Refugee Centre, Kinchow Road, has been chosen.

The play being staged in Hongkew, has already been examined by the Japanese authorities. They have no objections at all and have forwarded to us their written consent.

Therefore we hope and expect that the Shanghai Municipal Police will give us the necessary permission.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants
Mark Siegelberg
D

(Dr. Mark Siegelberg. (nom de plume:
Willi Kram) and Hans Wiener.)

6/ Dr. Mark Siegelberg
P.O.B. 1914

1 Enclosure